

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-7 and 9-11 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A stairlift ~~provided with a rail~~ for mounting along a stairway, said stairlift comprising

a rail,

a platform movably mounted on the rail,

a drive mechanism for moving the platform along the rail along the stairway, the platform being mounted so as to be movable about a vertical shaft relative to the rail, ~~and~~

a drive automatically ~~rotating~~ driving an angle of rotation of the platform about the vertical shaft relative to an orientation realized by moving the platform along the rail dependent on a particular position of the platform along the rail at a location significantly spaced between ends of the rail, during movement of the platform along the rail, and

a control system for controlling coordinated movement of the platform along an entire length of the rail by the drive mechanism and the drive.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The stairlift according to claim 1, wherein the rail comprises a virtually straight part and a bend, and the drive ~~is arranged to rotate~~

rotates the platform, at positions in the bend, at an orientation or orientations which make a smaller angle with a part of the rail ~~going downstairs~~ in the bend than an orientation of the platform in the straight part.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The stairlift according to claim 2, wherein the rail is mounted in a stairwell, at such a height above the stairway that a bottom side of the platform does not contact the steps of the stairway during the movement along the rail, ~~wherein~~ and the height is less than a height which would be needed for not contacting the steps in the bend if, in the bend, the platform would be kept at an orientation of the platform in the straight part.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The stairlift according to claim 1, wherein the rail is mounted in a stairwell with the stairwell having a wide part and a narrow part narrower than said wide part, ~~wherein~~ and the stairwell is insufficiently wide to let the platform rotate ~~through~~ completely, and ~~wherein~~ the drive is arranged to rotate the platform, at a position preceding the entering of the narrow part, at an angle from where the platform can be rotated to a position for getting on and off in the narrow part without obstruction from walls in the stairwell.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The stairlift according to claim 4, wherein the stairwell ~~comprises~~ includes a bend with parts on both sides, ~~wherein~~ and the stairwell is insufficiently wide to let the platform rotate ~~through~~ completely, and ~~wherein~~ the drive is arranged to make the platform rotate between angles from which the platform can be rotated to a position for getting on and off in the respective parts without obstruction from walls of the stairwell.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The stairlift according to claim 1, wherein the rail is mounted in a stairwell such that, if the platform stood still at any fixed angle about the vertical shaft during movement along the rail, the platform would hit a step of the stairway or a wall of the stairwell at any point along the rail, and ~~wherein~~ the drive is arranged to change said angle of the platform relative to the rail en route along the rail such that ~~this prevents~~ the platform is prevented from hitting steps and/or the wall.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The stairlift according to claim 1, wherein the drive is provided with a position sensor for detection of a position of the platform along the rail, memory means ~~comprising~~ includes information about a desired angle setting as a function of the position, and a motor, ~~wherein~~ and the sensor is coupled to the

memory means for reading out information about ~~the~~ a desired angle setting depending on sensor information, and the memory means ~~are~~ is coupled to the motor for controlling the angle depending on the read-out information about the desired angle setting.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The stairlift according to claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism to move the platform along the rail along the stairway is coupled to the drive for the angle about the vertical shaft and the drive for the angle about the vertical shaft is arranged to set the angle depending on a progress of the drive mechanism.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for driving a platform along a rail mounted in a stairwell, ~~which comprises~~ said method comprising the step of

mounting a platform on the rail,

moving the platform along the rail along the stairwell,

moving the platform about a vertical shaft relative to the rail,

automatically ~~rotating~~ driving a rotation of the platform relative to the rail about a the vertical shaft during movement of the platform along the rail, spaced

between ends of the rail, at angles depending on a position of the platform along the rail, and

controlling coordinated movement of the platform along an entire length of the rail.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein the rail comprises includes a virtually straight part and a bend, and the platform is rotated, at positions in the bend, at an orientation or orientations which make a smaller angle with a part of the rail going downstairs than an orientation of the platform in the straight part.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein the rail is mounted in a stairwell with the stairwell having a wide part and a narrow part narrower than said wide part, ~~wherein~~ the stairwell is insufficiently wide to let the platform rotate ~~through~~ completely, and ~~wherein~~ the platform is rotated, at a position preceding the entering of the narrow part, at an angle from where the platform can be rotated to a position for getting on and off in the narrow part without obstruction from walls in the stairwell.